GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4747
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Family Planning Programmes in the country have been focussed on women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have drawn any plans to create awareness among men for the successful implementation of these programmes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the health programme more successful to control increasing population of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question NO.4747 for answer on 18th April, 2001.

(a) & (b): The family planning programmes in the country have been focussed on maternal health, safe motherhood and since 1997 on reproduce and child health.

Further the National Population Policy, 2000 adopted by the Government of India in February, 2000 envisages the following schemes for the benefit of the women/girl child:

- Continuation of Balika Samridhi Yojana under which a cash incentive of Rs.500 is awarded at the birth of the girl child of birth order 1 or 2.
- Continuation of Maternity Benefit Scheme under which a cash incentive of Rs.500 is awarded to mothers who have their first child after 19 years of age, for birth of the first or second child only.
- Operating Creches and childcare centres in rural areas and urban slums.
- Facilities for safe abortion will be strengthened and expanded.
- Increased vocational training schemes for girls, leading to self-employment will be encouraged.

(c) The No-Scalpel Vasectomy project is being implemented in the country to promote male participation in the Family Welfare programme. Under this project 1500 medical personnel all over the country are being trained in the technique of No-Scalpel Vasectomy. Ensuring the availability of this new technique up to the peripheral level will help increase the acceptance of male sterilization in the country.

(d) The steps taken by Government so far for creating awareness/education among masses for small family norm are as follows:-

(i) Wide publicity is being carried out through electronic and print media, both in Hindi and regional languages on small family norm, spacing, immunization etc. The media unit of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and several Social Marketing Organisations and NGOs are involved in strengthening of IEC efforts.

(ii) Various other Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, including strengthening of Mahila Swasthya Sanghs, State level seminars, cultural shows, exhibition, road-side hoardings etc. are simulatneously pursued. Local specific issues are addressed through a scheme involving the Zilla Saksharata Samities in IEC for the programme. 227 districts are covered under this.

(iii) Convergence of all the Departments in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implemented through the holding of Family Welfare and Health Melas. Series of Melas have been held in the demographically weaker States. The Mela provides convergence of a wide range of health and family welfare services at one place and time. This serves to address the unmet needs among different segments of the population. There has been tremendous response and appreciation from the public.

(iv) For the underserved regions of the country, Primary Health Centre based RCH camps are being held at regular intervals.